Expenditure on Publicity of Public Sector Companies

4081. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on publicity of Public Sector Companies during 1995 and 1996 till date;

(b) whether the Government propose to curtail this amount, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). All Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) handle their publicity directly as per their requirements and not through the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicty (DAVP) falling under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Therefore, the details of amount spent on various publicity measures by the PSUs are not available in DAVP. Also, the DAVP do not exercise any control over the amount spend by PSUs on publicity. Six Public Sector Undertakings had, however, routed their Press advertisements of classified nature through DAVP during 1995 and 1996 amounting to Rs. 353849.00 and Rs. 401787.00 respectively.

[English]

HPT Tower Bhuj

4082. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far on 300 meter RCC tower for HPT at Bhuj District, Gujarat;

(b) whether the construction work on the said tower has been stopped;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(e) whether delay in work is likely to increase the original cost of the tower; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The HPT tower has been constructed upto a height of 127.5 metres.

(b) and (c). The work on the tower had temporarily slowed down from September, 1995 to August, 1996 due to an arbitration case. The steel fabrication work for the remaining height has since resumed.

(d) The 300 M tower is expected to be completed by December, 1997.

(e) and (f). This delay on account of slow progress on the tower work for nearly a year is expected to cause a marginal increase of about Rs. 3.5 lakh in cost.

Unauthorised Occupation of Quarters

4083. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of large scale unathorised occupation of quarters in Bokaro steel City;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the persons involved with the number of quarters occupied by each of them;

(d) the steps to take possession of those quarters;

(e) whether these is any criterion to distribute quarters to the trade unions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of Provident Fund and Gratuity

4084. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers of the National Textiles Corporation (NTC), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited (IDPL) and several other PSU's have not been paid statutory dues like provident fund and gratuity;

(b) whether it is a fact that even the bonus has not been paid to every worker;

(c) if so, the reasons for these lapse; and

(d) the steps taken to pay the dues to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The issue of non-payment of wages and other statutory dues like Provident Fund gratuity Bonus etc., to the employees of certain Public Sector Undertakings has been raised repeatedly by several Members of Parliament and trade unions in different formal/informal forums. As per the available information, some of the sick Central PSUs are not in a position to pay statutory dues in time due to financial